

Amendments to the Abstract:

Please replace the original Abstract of the Disclosure with the following paragraph. A clean copy has been placed as an Appendix to this Amendment.

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A3 ~~The present invention provides systems and methods~~ Techniques and structures for performing robotically-assisted surgical procedures on a patient. ~~In particular,~~ [[a]] ~~Articulated mounting joints support a three-component surgical system is provided that includes a non-sterile drive and control component, a sterilizable end effector or surgical tool and an intermediate connector component, that includes mechanical elements for coupling the surgical tool with the drive and control component and for transferring motion and electrical signals therebetween. The drive and control component is shielded from the sterile surgical site, the surgical tool is sterilizable and disposable and the intermediate connector is sterilizable and reusable. In this manner, the intermediate connector can be sterilized after a surgical procedure without damaging the motors or electrical connections within the drive and control component of the robotic system. A non-sterile drive component includes a manipulator arm, and a plurality of surgical instrument assemblies are provided for connection to the manipulator arm. The manipulator arm is suitably positioned relative to the patient by moving the articulated mounting joint. The mounting joint is fixed while the arm is positioned and oriented relative to the patient.~~